GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1811
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
VEHICLE RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (VRDE) of the Defence Research and Development Organisatior carrying out R&D activity on wheeled and tracked vehicles primarily for the Army has completed 18 projects after spending crores of rupees in the last decade;

(b) if so, whether only four projects out of them finally have started production;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to check the mismanagement and haphazard planning in Defence sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)
(a) Yes, Sir. VRDE has completed 18 projects successfully for the Army during 1988-1998, which involved an outlay of Rs. 9.72 Crore.

(b) & (c): No, Sir. Expenditure on R&D projects is not considered wasteful as all technologies developed and experience gained are utilized in future programmes. VRDE has completed all 18 projects while 4 went into bulk production during 1988-1998, the fifth one namely, `Operation Theatre (OT) complex on wheels` was productionised in the year 2000 and yet another one, namely kitchen lorry is under process of productionisation. However R&D projects go in for production based on objectives of the project and users` immediate and futuristic requirements.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply at parts (b) & (c).